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<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/780,124	JACKSON ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jennifer H Gay	3672	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 2/7/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 21-40.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 17 February 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

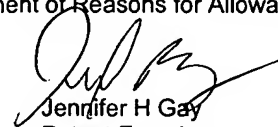
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

  
 Jennifer H Gay  
 Patent Examiner  
 AU: 3672

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### REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. Carlson et al. discloses a pipe protector that includes grooves formed on the tubular body of the protector. The protector is not expandable nor does it include profile cuts.

2. WO 99/18328 discloses an expandable liner hanger. The hanger includes a plurality of slits formed on the outer surface. A slit, however, is structural different from a groove which is defined as a furrow or a channel; a channel is defined a trench which cannot be a slit.

**slit** (slit) *noun*

A long, straight, narrow cut or opening.<sup>1</sup>

**groove** (griv) *noun*

1. A long, narrow furrow or channel.

2. *Slang.* A settled routine: *got into the groove of a nine-to-five job.*

3. *Slang.* A situation or an activity that one enjoys or to which one is especially well suited: *found his groove playing bass in a trio.*

4. *Slang.* A very pleasurable experience.<sup>2</sup>

**chan·nel** (chàn'el) *noun*

*Abbr.* chan.

1. The bed of a stream or river.

2. The deeper part of a river or harbor, especially a deep navigable passage.

3. A broad strait, especially one that connects two seas.

4. A trench, furrow, or groove.

5. A tubular passage for liquids; a conduit.<sup>3</sup>

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

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*Regarding claim 21:* The prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest an expandable liner hanger useable in a wellbore where the liner hanger includes relief grooves formed in the outer surface of the liner hanger as specifically called for in the claimed combination and method.

*Regarding claim 29:* The prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest an expandable packer useable in a wellbore where the packer includes relief grooves and profile cuts formed in the outer surface of the packer as specifically called for in the claimed combination and method.

*Regarding claim 33:* The prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest an expandable liner hanger useable in a wellbore where the liner hanger includes grooves and at least one profile cut formed in the outer surface of the liner hanger as specifically called for in the claimed combination and method.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

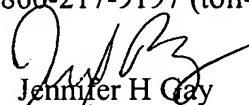
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jennifer H Gay whose telephone number is (703) 308-2881. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 6:30-4:00 and Friday, 6:30-1:00.

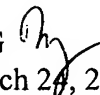
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bagnell can be reached on (703) 308-2151. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

As applicant may be aware, the USPTO is in the process of moving to a new, consolidated campus. The examiner is currently still located at the old campus and can be reached at the above phone number. However, starting on 31 March 2005 all calls to the examiner should be made using a new telephone number, which is (571) 272-7029. Starting on that date, David Bagnell can be reached at (571) 272-6999. Please note that the official fax number will not be changing.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Jennifer H Gay  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 3672

JHG   
March 24, 2005